



BULLETIN

from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE HOSTS MAJOR LANDOWNER FORUM ON ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

In mid-November, 25 landowners representing home builders, timber companies, farmer co-ops, livestock ranchers, utilities, and energy development companies from across the country came together to look at new ways of protecting endangered species on private lands. The forum was developed by the Fish and Wildlife Service in conjunction with The Conservation Fund, the International Paper Company, and Anheuser-Busch.

"This pioneer forum was a resounding success," said Acting Service Director John Rogers. "Our goal went beyond merely bringing different groups together. We wanted to learn from one another and build levels of trust in working with endangered species. Landowners learn more about flexible and workable strategies for saving species and Service personnel learn to look for solutions that meet the economic needs of private landowners."

The forum focused on Endangered Species Act conservation tools directly applicable to private lands--habitat conservation plans, candidate conservation agreements, and safe harbor agreements. Presenters included private landowners as well as experts from the Service and conservation organizations.

"This was a very exciting process," said John Turner, president of The Conservation Fund. "We had very open and frank discussions about common-sense approaches to save declining wildlife while allowing profitable activities to proceed on private property. Since much of remaining habitat is on private lands, we must all learn to work together to find ways for landowners to safeguard wildlife on their lands."

"We must develop conservation leaders for the next century," said Tom Jorling, vice president for environmental affairs at International Paper. "Collaborative training and working together to meet common goals will lead to exciting new conservation approaches for the future."

The endangered species gathering also provided an opportunity for the group to tour the Service's new National Conservation Training Center, currently under construction. Resource professionals from government, corporations, academia, and the nonprofit community can meet at the training center to learn from one another and forge consensus approaches to the complex and controversial resource issues of the future.